

Where to Stay - Midtown

Atlanta, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Midtown is one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Atlanta. Along with its variety of attractions, restaurants and popular nightlife, Midtown's hotels also provide a great place to not only sleep, but hang out. Whether you prefer smaller boutique properties or well known hotel giants you can find it in Midtown. Many of these properties are prime locations near entertainment and some even feature their own nightspots that become lively destinations after dark.



My List

contact:

tel: +1 404 881 0722 http://www.bedandbreakfast.c om/georgia-atlanta-stonehurst -bed-breakfast.html

location:

923 Piedmont Avenue N.E. Atlanta GA 30309



Stonehurst Place

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Walk to restaurants and cafes nearby

DESCRIPTION: Award-winning Stonehurst Place is an elegant, gourmet- and art-lover's oasis set in a National Register Historic property, located in Midtown, Atlanta's theater, museum and arts district. Stonehurst Place features eco-friendly enhancements, beautiful rooms, amazing art and designer interiors. Perfect for business and leisure travelers, Stonehurst Place is a short walk to shops and fine restaurants, and is within four-blocks of MARTA -public trains- providing direct access to the Atlanta Airport, major malls, the Downtown convention district, and other historic sites.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

contact:

tel: +1 404 881 9898 fax: +1 404 873 4692 http://www.fourseasons.com/ atlanta/

location:

75 14th St Ne Atlanta GA 30309



Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Make sure and grab a bit at Park 75, the hotel's gourmet restaurant.

DESCRIPTION: The Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta is consistently acclaimed as one of the finest hotels in the city. The city's only five-star hotel, it is conveniently located within walking distance of popular destinations such as the Atlanta Botanical Gardens and the upscale neighborhood of Buckhead. Guests rave about their huge and lavishly decorated rooms, praising luxurious amenities such as deep soaking tubs, sumptuous high thread-count bedding and down pillows and duvets. They also heap praise upon the hotel's restaurant, Park 75, which serves a seasonal, organic menu of contemporary American cuisine. Guests seeking to pamper themselves will find a full menu of massage, body and facial treatments at the hotel's private spa, including some specially designed for men. © Raveable



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 404 874 9200 fax: +1 404 873 4245 http://www.midtownatlantahot el.com/

location:

683 Peachtree St Atlanta GA 30308



Hotel Indigo-Atlanta Midtown

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Ask about their canine cocktail hour if your traveling with furry friend

DESCRIPTION: Known for its unique design and appealing architecture, Indigo Hotel Atlanta Midtown offers guests "the art and science of living away from home." The open-spaced rooms are painted in soft, earthy colors, creating an environment of solitude and peace. Enjoy the cozy beds and over-sized feather down pillows, the large spa-style shower and the wide opened foyer to store bags and personal items. Each



Hotels.com



3

of the 394 guest rooms feature high-speed internet access, and also accommodate pets. Guests can enjoy the high-tech health and fitness center and dine at the casual Golden Bean restaurant known for its coffee, paninis and pastas. The hotel is part of the Intercontinental Hotels Group, and is only minutes away from the Fox Theatre, the Atlanta Ballet and Opera House and downtown Atlanta. To escape from the fast paced city of Atlanta, Hotel Indigo is the "hot spot" to wind-down and relax. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 404 897 1991 fax: +1 404 724 0642 http://www.thegeorgianterrac e.com/

location:

659 Peachtree St Atlanta GA 30308



The Georgian Terrace Hotel

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Enjoy drinks or dinner at Livingston Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: Location. Constructed in 1911, The Georgian Terrace Hotel is located on Peachtree Street in Atlanta. Ga.. and is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The Fox Theatre and Churchill Downs stand across the street, and Centennial Olympic Park is located one mile away. Hotel Features. The hotel lobby features floor-to-ceiling windows, Palladian-style windows and crystal chandeliers. The Livingstone, a noted Atlanta restaurant, serves contemporary Southern cuisine and offers terrace seating with views of Peachtree Street. The hotel hosts live musical entertainment from Monday through Thursday evenings. The hotel's complimentary business center houses one computer. A total of 16,000 square feet of function space accommodates events. A complimentary, limited-hour fitness room contains two wallmounted flat-screen televisions, stationary bikes, elliptical machines and treadmills. A seasonal outdoor pool provides recreation.

Guestrooms. This 18-story property offers 326 guestrooms decorated with antique-style furnishings including traditional floral-print chairs. Most accommodations afford views of the Atlanta skyline. Beds are dressed with 250-thread count linens and European duvets. Bathrooms feature tiled bathtubs and are stocked with Gilchrist & Soames toiletries. One- and two-bedroom suites contain kitchens. Windows open, and select rooms feature sliding glass doors that open onto balconies. High-speed Internet access is complimentary.

Expert Tip. This hotel's name is etched in Atlanta's historic past. Dance legend Arthur Murray once taught classes in the palatial Grand Ballroom. The Grand Ballroom also hosted the world premiere reception for the epic film, "Gone With the Wind." In addition, the Georgian Terrace hosted the Metropolitan Opera's annual visits from the 1920s through the 1950s.



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contact:

tel: +1 678 412 2400 fax: +1 678 412 2401 www.hotelpalomar-atlantamid

town.com

location:

866 W Peachtree St Nw Atlanta GA 30308



Renaissance Atlanta Midtown

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Ask about the pet VIP service if traveling with a furry friend

DESCRIPTION: Located just two block from Georgia Tech, this boutique hotel is one of the newest additions to Atlanta's downtown hotel scene. In close proximity to the High Museum of are and other downtown attractions, The Palomar features a unique outdoor terrace lounge with firepits and water features as well as a 24-hour fitness center. Guestrooms feature Frette Italian linens, 37-inch LCD TVs and best of all, pets welcome at no extra charge.



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 404 892 6000 fax: +1 404 733 6990 http://www.dpbolvw.net/click-2 005797-10561154

location:

188 14th Street NE Atlanta GA 30361



W Atlanta- Midtown

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you need some peace and quit, take some time to experience the sound-proofed Whisper Booths along the lobby's passageways.

DESCRIPTION: Situated within Atlanta's blossoming arts district, The W Atlanta Midtown lives up to its technoglam theme. Featuring a entryway media wall with rotating images of nature and black and gray wall and floors the decor is truly unique. Visit Spice Market for dinner and grab a cocktail at Randy Gerber's Whiskey Park. The modern outdoor patio features water features and greenery among seating. Other amenities include the 24-hour SWEAT fitness center with television-mounted cardiovascular equipment, weight-training machines and exercise balls. Bliss Spa offers manicures, pedicures and a multitude of facial and massage treatments. If your needing some balance in life, take a rest on the ying/yang designed couches near the 5th-floor pool or full-service spa, bliss, offers manicures, pedicures, a menu of massage options, eucalyptus showers and a lounge with fruit and brownie buffets. A 5th-floor outdoor pool features cabanas, food and beverage service, and yin/yang-designed couches. Rooms feature 37-inch flat-panel televisions, DVD players, and connectivity panels as well as stocked minibars, W t-shirts, and OUCH and intimacy kits.



Hotels.com



Atlanta Snapshot

Local Info

Downtown

Downtown Atlanta remains a business and government district and is slowly developing into nightlife destination with the opening of several upscale hotels and trendy restaurants. Downtown is also home to Atlanta's professional sports, including Atlanta Hawks basketball and Thrashers hockey, which can both be experienced at the Philips Arena. The Georgia Dome, home of the Falcon's football, and Centennial Olympic Park are also located downtown and are well-known destinations that were built for the 1996 Olympic Games. The downtown skyline is dominated by major hotels and office buildings including the headquarters of The Coca-Cola Co. and other international corporations. New additions to the downtown view include the W Atlanta Downtown Hotel and Residences at Allen Plaza and boutique hotel, the Palomar, which are both attracting a trendier crowd to downtown's streets. Business destination, The Peachtree Center, includes a mall with restaurants and shopping and The Georgia World Congress Center hosts a variety of trade shows and conventions each year. In the distance, the golden-domed building is the Georgia State Capital. In the past few years, downtown has reinvigorated itself as a tourist destination. From the opening of the Georgia Aquarium to the New World of Coca-Cola, throngs of visitors make their way through downtown to check these worthwhile destinations off their list. Don't forget to take a whirl through the CNN Center, home to the cable television's first 24-hour news network, or a trip through the subterranean shops and restaurants at Underground Atlanta, opened in 1989.

Midtown

A mixture of business, arts and nature, Midtown has something for everybody. Boasting the regional headquarters of IBM and AT&T, Midtown's streets also play host to cultural attractions such as the Fabulous Fox Theatre, the High Museum of Art, and the Woodruff Arts Center. Don't be surprised by the number of rainbow flags flying outside establishments and homes near Piedmont Road and 10th Street, Midtown is also home to much of Atlanta's gay community. Along with its beautifully restored homes and mansions, Midtown

also has some not-so-picturesque sections that are hangouts for the homeless and seedy characters. Known for its diversity, Midtown is the playground for Georgia Tech students, young professionals and families. The best place to people watch by far is Piedmont Park, an expansive green in the heart of Midtown. Boasting a dog park, picnic areas and several jogging and walking paths that become jam-packed during the fall and spring, Piedmont Park is also a popular venue for festivals and concerts. Recently hosting the likes of the Dave Mathews Band, The Allman Brothers Band and Paul McCartney, Piedmont Park is also the location of the well-known Dogwood Festival, marking the start of spring, and the finish line for the Peachtree Road Race, the largest 10k race in the United States.

Buckhead

Atlanta's Beverly Hills, Buckhead is also a business district and home to the Governor and many of Atlanta's wealthiest. While Buckhead's remaining hole-in-the-wall bars continue to attract a boisterous drinking crowd, many of the favored nightspots were recently demolished to make way for The Streets of Buckhead project-- and upscale shopping and leisure district being compared to the likes of Rodeo Drive. While The Streets of Buckhead is still under construction, Buckhead is already home to luxury shops, high-caliber restaurants and world-class hotels, including The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Hyatt and Intercontinental, which all sit blocks away from Phipps Plaza and Lenox Square, the city's most elegant malls. Some of the neighborhood's newcomers include the Terminus office building on the corner of Piedmont and Peachtree. The Mansion on Peachtree hotel and residence, luxury high-rise condominium The Sovereign and the St. Regis Hotel on West Paces Ferry. Outside central Buckhead, high-rise apartments and condos dominate, as do the old money mansions of Atlanta's elite.

Virginia-Highland

Referred to by locals as "the Highlands," this quaint residential neighborhood centers on the intersection of Virginia and North Highland avenues. The walkability of the neighborhood has made it a popular place to reside, thus driving up rents and home prices. Today the neighborhood is made

up of prosperous young professionals and families. Some of the landmarks surrounding the Highlands include the Jimmy Carter Center, Emory University in Druid Hills and Piedmont Park in Midtown. On Highland Avenue you can find a mixture of bars, restaurants as well as high-end boutiques, gifts shops and beauty salons. Stop by Belly General Store for a freshmade bagel and cupcake or window shop the latest trends at Bill Hallman and Mitzi and Romano. At night this casual neighborhood comes alive with bar hoppers that include Emory students and middleaged professionals. Grab a pint at the Dark Horse pub or spend the evening listening to live blues at Blind Willies. For a more laidback evening, grab gelato at Paolo's or a glass of wine at La Tavola.

Little Five Points

Situated on the edge of Inman Park and Candler Park, Little Five Points is a funky combination of thrift shops, piercing parlors, casual bars and music venues. A haven for young rebels and the tattooed crowd, the neighborhood hosts an annual Halloween Parade and is home to the Vortex restaurant, known for its mediocre service, skull shaped-entrance and delicious burgers. Restored bungalows and historical post-Civil War era homes line the streets and areas surrounding Freedom Park along with run-down residences. Although this is not the neighborhood to scour for five-star cuisine, tasty bar food abounds. Stop into Bang-On to design your own T-shirt and roam the aisles of Junkman's Daughter for a wacky gift or bright pink wig.

East Atlanta

The latest addition to Atlanta's distinct neighborhoods, East Atlanta is still shedding the reputation of a run down part of town. While many new restaurants and shops have recently made the neighborhood home, the surrounding blocks of Flat Shoals and Glenwood Avenues continue to struggle through disrepair and decline. Some of the noteworthy spots to visit include JavaVino, serving wine and coffee, and budgetfriendly Holy Taco. The Earl in East Atlanta Village is one of the neighborhood's most popular destinations for live music and late night eats. From music shops to boutiques



to bookstores, the shopping options are varied.

Vinings

Home to those who want to live outside the city, but not too far outside the city, the Vinings has become a popular residential area for city newcomers and suburban retirees. Situated on the northeast corner of the city, the Vinings has a classy selection of restaurants to choose from, including celebrated Canoe on the banks of the Chattahoochee River and the romantic Vinings Inn. While the majority of shoppers don't consider the Vinings a destination, several boutiques and well known clothing chains can be found in the Vinings Jubilee center, a quaint, walkable area developed to resemble a town square. Cumberland Mall at I-75 and Windy Hill Road recently underwent a complete renovation and is home to major restaurant chains, including The Cheesecake Factory, P.F. Chang's China Bistro and Ted's Montana Grill as well as retailer Costco.

History

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Visitors to Atlanta often ask about a certain local curiosity. Even though just about every other street, plaza, or business establishment is dubbed "Peachtree," there doesn't seem to be a single peach tree in the entire city. The reason for this absence, simply enough, is that peach trees are not indigenous to the area. But the phenomenon of the peachtree naming mania stems from a confusion that dates back 200 years.

In 1782, military scouts moving west through Georgia discovered a small Cherokee village on the banks of the Chattahoochee River named, as the explorers understood it, Standing Peachtree. Historians, however, speculate that since it was unlikely that the natives had named their village after a variety of vegetation they had almost certainly never seen, the settlement's name came from the pitch tree, a type of evergreen found throughout the region. Nevertheless, by 1812, the new American military had established Fort Peachtree on the site of the Cherokee village, establishing

a tradition of misnomerism that would continue for hundreds of years.

The small outpost in northwest Georgia saw limited action in the War of 1812, but by the early 1820s, a growing influx of white settlers gave rise to conflict with the indigenous population. The peace was largely kept by the willingness of the Cherokee and Creek tribes to agree to a long series of ever more disagreeable treaties, which granted more and more land to the white settlers. The final blow was struck in 1837, when federal forces rounded up over 17,000 Cherokee and Creek Indians, and began a forced westward march that was to stretch over some 800 miles into what is now Oklahoma. More than 4.000 perished along the way, which later came to be known as the "Trail of Tears."

With the Indian situation no longer a concern, construction of the new Western& Atlantic Railroad proceeded. Late in 1837. a town was founded near the site of Fort Peachtree that would serve as the southern terminus of this new railway. The town was, rather poetically, named Terminus.

It grew rapidly, as rail workers, pioneers and traders established homes and businesses. which, in 1843, was renamed Marthasville. In 1845, the city was renamed Atlanta, and in 1848, Atlanta elected Moses W. Formwalt as its first mayor. As more track was laid throughout the South. Atlanta became connected to almost every major port and trade center, making it a vital link between Dixie and the markets of the North.

If the boomtown had been important to the South's economic well-being before, it became absolutely critical when war broke out. During the summer of 1864, 100,000 federal troops under General William Tecumseh Sherman pushed back Confederate defenders through north Georgia, culminating in the Battle of Atlanta on July 22nd. Sherman's forces shelled the city for over a month, until Atlanta surrendered on September 2nd. Before doing so, however, the rebel forces set flame to whatever they felt would be useful

to the enemy, effectively burning down two-thirds of Atlanta. Of the 4,000 homes, businesses and civic buildings that stood in Atlanta before the summer of 1864, only 400 remained.

Reconstruction was a difficult period for the entire South, but it succeeded in Atlanta more than in other places. The valuable rail system was rebuilt within two years, and Atlanta became more urban and civilized, erecting theatres, schools and even two opera houses. By 1870, the city boasted over 250 stores, a horse-drawn streetcar system, and Atlanta University, which today stands as the world's largest predominantly-black college. In 1877, Atlanta was named the new capital of Georgia, with a population nearing 37,000.

In 1886, local druggist John Pemberton introduced something he called a"brain tonic." Meant to relieve headaches, the tonic proved such a hit with his patrons that Pemberton was able to sell the recipe to another local businessman a year later for a whopping USD2,300. Ten years later, recipe-buyer Asa Candler had made Coca-Cola a household name.

The trials of the early 20th century played out in Atlanta as they did elsewhere in urban America, with great city advancements frequently marred by civic strife. By 1900, the city's population and workforce was almost evenly divided between white and black, but the laws of segregation dramatically divided these two populations. In 1960, Atlanta native and civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. established the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in his Auburn Avenue neighborhood. His Center for Nonviolent Social Change now stands near his boyhood home within the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Site. Atlanta was also the first major Southern city to elect a black mayor: 35 year-old Maynard Jackson in 1974.

Through the latter part of the 20th Century, Atlanta has continued to expand as a vibrant, vital international city. In 1966, the city became the first in history to be awarded a professional baseball and



football franchise in the same year. Eight years later, this would be the site of baseball history, when the Atlanta Braves' Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's home run record. In 1968, the Atlanta Hawks brought professional basketball to Atlanta. In 1976, the Georgia World Congress Center opened as the largest single-floor exhibit space on the planet, and in 1979, Atlanta unveiled MARTA, a state-of-the-art public transit system.

Today, Atlanta stands as a premier American city and the capital of one of the nation's most rapidly-developing economic regions. Expansion and development continue as new ventures are born and residents flock from around the country. The influx has been so great that it is sometimes said that the hardest thing to find in Atlanta(besides a peach tree) is someone who was born in Atlanta.

Hotel Insights

HOTELS

Atlanta's lodging landscape includes an array of big name hotel chains and more are putting down stakes everyday hoping to capitalize on the business travels and tourists that make their way through the city each year. Fortunately, the vast number of hotels in the city makes finding a suitable accommodation in your price range easy. While hotels in the city will be pricier than those in the suburbs, there are more than enough properties throughout town to fit a variety of needs. Buckhead is the place for the luxury brands, while Downtown and Midtown are sprinkled with boutique properties and landmark hotels. From trendy and lively to conservative and upscale. Atlanta's hotels cater to all kinds of visitors. Several historical inns and bed and breakfasts located in residential neighborhoods are also available, giving visitors a quaint lodging experience that is more laid back and personal.

Downtown

Located about 15 minutes from Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, Downtown's hotel properties are a great option for business travelers or tourists looking to visit the main attractions. One of the

newest arrivals on the Downtown hotel scene is theW Atlanta Downtown Hotel. which features the indulgent bar and lounge DRINKSHOP as well as the pricey power lunch and dinner spot,BLT Steak. In the heart of the Downtown's business corridor, The Marriott Marquis recently underwent a renovation and has a convenient indoor connection to the MARTA train. The Westin Peachtree Plaza is in close proximity of The Georgia Aquarium and other must see attractions and boasts a top-floor revolving bar and restaurant, The Sundial, which offers an incredible view of the city. For a location right next to the sporting events and CNN, opt for theOmni Hotel at CNN Center, which connects to the Georgia Dome, Philips Arena and the CNN's headquarters. For classic elegance Downtown. The Ritz-Carlton is the place to call home, but there are also many practical and more economical options, such as the Days Inn and Travelodge, that give you the Downtown location without the big business price tag. A spot that is reasonably price and also offers a little history is the Marriott Residence Inn. Built in 1928, the property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Midtown

Midtown is the trendier, yet more laid back, sidekick to downtown. While this neighborhood features almost as many properties as Downtown, many are smaller and have a little more personality. TheW Midtown is one spot to stay if you want to see and be seen. For one of the city's most luxurious hotel experiences, go straight to theFour Seasons Hotel, which features an impressive interior of rose-colored marble. The hotel, which got a notable renovation in 1998, is the epitome of sophistication and class. Offering a bit more history, the reasonable-pricedGeorgian Terrace on Peachtree opened its doors in 1911 and sits in a prime location across from another Atlanta landmark, The Fabulous Fox Theatre. The Georgian Terrace is wellknown as the location of the 1939 cast premiere party of "Gone with the Wind." For more intimate accommodations, drop your bags at The Ansley Inn, a 1907 Tudor mansion converted bed and breakfast, orStonehurst Place, a home built in 1896 that was renovated into a eco-friendly hideaway in 2008. For another piece of history at a reasonable price, check out the Biltmore Suites built in 1924, which

once hosted Franklin Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower. Nearby is the boutique Palomar Hotel, known for its rooftop bar, swanky crowd and pet-friendly amenities.

Buckhead

Most Buckhead hotels will come with a price that matches the neighborhood's upscale reputation. However you can't be next to some of the city's best shopping and eating without taking a bit of a splurge. To begin at the top of the top, consider theRitz-Carlton Buckhead as headquarters. From the top-notch service, to the woodpaneled lobby and celebrity clientele, this is where the high-brow crowd meets and stays. The more recently openedSt. Regis is another high-end spot located near some of the neighborhoods popular eateries, including Chops. On the way over to the Lenox Mall, you will pass theGrand Hyatt,InterContinental Buckhead andWestin, all great options for those looking to be in the center of the action. The chic W Buckhead, is also close by. attracting patrons for hotel rooms as well as drinks and dinner. To be totally immersed in the Buckhead shopping experience, opt for the J. W. Marriott Hotel Lenox, which is connected to Lenox Square mall. For the more budget conscience, Springhill Suites by Marriott, the Holiday Inn Buckhead and theCourtyard by Marriott are all in great locations. For a bed and breakfast done Buckhead style, visit the 1920s-built Beverly Hills Inn.

Virginia-Highland

Known for its charming homes and quaint restaurants, Virginia-Highland doesn't offer much in the way of big hotels, but if looking to stay in this quieter part of town, bed and breakfasts are your best option. Situated on St. Charles St. off Highland Avenue, the Gaslight Inn is in walking distance of restaurants and shops as well as late night bars. Built in 1913, the inn is known for its tasty breakfast. Housed in a 1920s bungalow, Adele's Virginia Highland Bed& Breakfast boasts a porch and flower garden. For a more affordable bed and breakfast, the Highland Inn, is a good option. Although it's in need of a renovation, the 1920s structure is neighbor to several popular restaurants.

Little Five Points

Like the Virginia-Highlands, Little Five Points is more a place for locals to sleep



than tourists. The hipster neighborhood does have some hidden gems nearby. The King-Keith House and the Sugar Magnolia in neighboring Inman Park, offer up a taste of southern history, class and hospitality.

Decatur

Situated east of downtown, Decatur offers a quaint town square, shops and several notable restaurants, with more opening every day. Most of the hotels are practical accommodations, including The Holiday Inn Select, which is located near the government and court offices. Further from the town center, the Emory Inn is close to the university of the same name and is a good option for visitors making trips to Emory's campus. Another good option for university visitors is the 200-roomEmory Conference Center Hotel.

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Restaurants Insights

When most people think of Atlanta, they think of barbecue and good 'ole southern soul food. While this city definitely offers lots of options in these two categories, there are also a ton of other cuisines to fill your belly with. Mexican food may just be locals favorite pick, but everything from Thai to tapas spot are great options while visiting.

Downtown

There are several business spots in Downtown that are frequented by highpowered executives. Il Mulino offers highend New York Italian in the center of the business district. Ray's in the City serves upscale seafood spot in walking distance of Centennial Olympic Park and most of downtown attractions. For the best view in the city over drinks and appetizers. The Sun Dial at the top of the Westin is an Atlanta landmark that should be experienced. More recent additions to the downtown restaurant scene include French American Brasserie, which boast a roof top bar.BLT Steak at theW Atlanta Downtown hotel is a trendy and pricey spot known for its quality steaks.

For a more casual crowd, hang out drinking coffee atThumbs Up Diner, a laid-back breakfast spot hidden amongst the warehouses and lofts. Down the street,Spoon's authentic Thai cuisine and intimate ambiance continues to attract locals for lunch and dinner.

For a place to watch the game, STATS is both upscale and fun, providing several televisions of all sizes as well as inventive grub and lots of brews. No Mas Cantina is a popular Mexican spot in Castleberry Hill known for its lively atmosphere, margaritas and décor.

Midtown

Midtown is full of surprised when it comes to food. Mary Mac's Tea Room is a classic southern food spot that has been around for decades and hasn't changed its menu of classics since inception. Blues and barbecue atFat Matt's Rib Shack should not be missed, along with a slice of the restaurants pecan pie. For authentic Mexican food, Nuevo Laredo is your spot. Though you will probably have to wait for a table on the weekends, the salmon tacos, margaritas and free chips and salsa make up for it.

For top-notch gourmet food,

visitBacchanalia or sister spotQuinones at Bacchanalia in West Midtown. While it may be a costly meal, these spots are said to be two of the best in Atlanta. Park 75 at Four Seasons Atlanta is another highly-regarded eatery well known for its high-end gourmet cuisine inspired by southern classics such as macaroni and cheese. A more casual spot with a similar level of gourmet cuisine is4th& Swift, which serves up dishes with locally grown vegetables. For more fancy southern food, visitJCT Kitchen where the shrimp and grits and fried chicken can sell out on any given night and the roof top bar offers live music and a great view of the city skyline.

For late night grub and nightlife, visit the bars and restaurants on Crescent Avenue.

Buckhead

Buckhead's restaurants are a staple in Atlanta's culinary landscape. Buckhead Life Restaurant Group, which owns and operates more than a dozen restaurants in the neighborhood is a good place to start. Nava offers upscale Tex-Mex fusion, while Kyma is one of the best places for Greek food and happy hour drink on the patio. Chops is another Buckhead

Life Restaurant well known for its steak, seafood and high-brow clientele. Atlanta Fish Market, with its copper trout at the entrance, is the place to go when seeking the freshest catch in town. Competing with Chops in the steak department, Bone's is the place for business deals and red meat.

Maggiano's Little Italy near the Lenox Mall is a good pick for casual Italian. Whether it's for lunch, dinner or drinks at the bar, Season's 52 is a place that won't disappoint and offers a seasonally-inspired entrees prepared with your health in mind.

A great place to watch the soccer game and eat some tasty pub food isFado's, which is also a popular venue for happy hour and the late night bar crowd.

Virginia-Highland

The establishments in quaint Virginia-Highland will make you feel at home. Not to miss Thai can be found atSurin of Thailand while fancy Italian is the specialization ofLa Tavola. For sangria, tapas and tight quarters,Noche is the place. Whether is it is brunch or dinner, the food atMurphy's is a must as is the buffalo wings right next door atTaco Mac, which offers a huge selection of beers.

Great casual cuisine can be found sprinkled along Highland Avenue. Neighbor's and Hand in Hand are spots right next to each other that are popular on trivia nights and ideal for a cold beer on the outdoor porch. For a place that you can do dinner and drinking, stick aroundDark Horse Tavern, where the crowds get mighty thick late at night.

Little Five Points

No place exemplifies Little Five Points better than the Vortex Bar & Grill. With a huge skull entrance overlooking Moreland Avenue, this place is known for its incredible burgers and bad attitude.

For nicer service and tasty breakfast food, stop byThe Flying Biscuit. In L5P, most of the restaurants on located on Moreland Avenue so take a stroll and see what beckons.

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Nightlife Insights

NIGHTLIFE

Atlanta's nightlife ranges from Broadway theater shows to concerts to laid back intimate musical venues. The nightlife is a big part of this city's draw and a scene that should definitely be experienced during a visit, whether it's a night at the opera or at a small bar with live music. Atlanta truly is a melting pot of attributes in the nightlife category, which makes it a Mecca for both celebrities and tourists looking to have a good time.

Sports

Sports are huge in Atlanta and the Atlanta Braves major league baseball team are the headliners of the sports category. Housed at Turner Field, an impressive ballpark opened in 1997, the Atlanta Braves provide locals with sports entertainment as well as a venue featuring restaurants, a museum and interactive games. For the football fans, a visit to the famousGeorgia Dome to watch the NFL's Atlanta Falcons play is unmatched. Nearby, Philips Arena is home of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and the NFL'sAtlanta Thrashers team and also hosts to a variety of notable concerts throughout the year. For a look into the passion of college sports, Georgia Tech isn't too far away and provides a variety of sporting activities to witness year round.

Parks

Piedmont Park in Midtown is a guintessential city park and a must see while in Atlanta. With more than 100 acres of lakes, fields and recreational activities, the park is where locals go to grill out and throw around the Frisbee in good weather. Known for its annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival, the park is host to a variety of concerts, craft shows and festivals throughout the year. Downtown's Centennial Olympic Park is another natural environment worth visiting. While not as popular with locals as Piedmont Park, it is a place you'll spot business people taking lunch breaks or soaking in the sun at the impressive fountain. In Buckhead, Chastain Park offer a more family-friendly neighborhood feel. Featuring tennis courts, baseball fields and a two and a half large path for running or walking, the park is great for exercising. The Chastain Amphitheater is one of the best venues to enjoy an outdoor concert

during the summer. Other great natural attractions in the city and out includeStone Mountain State Park, a 3,000 acre expanse of forests and lakes surrounding a chunk of solid granite, as well as theAtlanta Botanical Gardens near Piedmont Park, which is home to variety of flower species from around the world.

Theater

For a taste of the city's arts and culture nightlife, a night at the Fabulous Fox Theatre shouldn't be missed. Built in 1916 the structure was a temple for the Shriners fraternal organization before becoming a theater that hosts a variety of traveling Broadway shows, concerts and operas. Down the street, theWoodruff Performing Arts Center is another cultural hotspot to enjoy. Home to the Alliance Theatre Company, the center hosts several ballets and children's shows. Smaller performing arts venues in the city include Midtown's Shakespeare Tavern, Seven Stages Theatre and the Neighborhood Playhouse.

Music

For one of the city's best live music experiences, spend an evening at one of Chastain Park Amphitheatre's summer series concerts. Hosting artists from years past as well as contemporary ones, the amphitheater also features the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra from June through August. Along with the beautiful environment in Chastain Park, one of the big perks of this venue is the ability to bring in coolers with drinks and food to most of the concerts. For a less intimate environment a little ways out of the city center, head to Aarons Amphitheatre at Lakewood. Hosting huge artists such as Dave Matthew's band and Counting Crows, the venue features lawn seating as well as a limited number of covered chair seating.

Combining the intimate bar scene with good tunes, smaller venues likeBlind Willie's in Virginia-Highland andNorthside Tavern in Midtown are good options for blues lovers looking for cheap drinks. While both spots have a cover cost for entrance the great tunes are worth it.The Cotton Club in Midtown is another great spot for quality live music, hosting up-and-coming local bands. Some of the most unique live performances can be had atVariety Playhouse in Little Five Points as well asEddie's Attic in Decatur, where artists

such as John Mayer and the Indigo Girls have performed.

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Things to Do Insights

From history to sports and everything in between, Atlanta's attractions tell the story of a city with southern roots that became a bustling metropolis and home to some of the country's largest corporations. Make sure not to skip the history hidden among the high rises while learning about the important individuals and leaders that made Atlanta what it is. A home to landmark theatres, meaningful homes and high-caliber universities, Atlanta also offers several fun-filled and educational attractions that will keep you busy and wanting to return again and again.

Centennial Olympic Park

Although Centennial Olympic Park is the site of the tragic 1996 Olympic bombing, it serves as a site of great pride for the Olympic games that took place in Atlanta and truly put it on the map. Adorned in fountains and flags, the park is a stone's throw from the Georgia Dome, home of the Falcons and Super Bowl XXXIV, and Philips Arena, where the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and NHL's Atlanta Thrashers play. Also close by is the CNN Center, where visitors can learn how Ted Turner founded the first 24hour news network. For those into politics or architecture, the 75-foot golden dome of the Georgia State Capitol is also a short walk away.

World of Coca-Cola and Georgia Aquarium

Recently moved to its new location at Pemberton Place, The World of Coca-Cola showcases product from one of Atlanta's most successful companies. The new building on Baker Street can't be missed and features a huge Coke bottle at the entrance. Inside patrons can taste more than 60 different Coke products and peruse the world's largest collection of Coke memorabilia. Other attractions include a 4-D Theater, 7-foot-tall Coke polar bear and fully-functioning bottling line.



Right next door, the Georgia Aquarium is another place that is worth a visit. One of the world's largest aquariums, this attraction is well known for its whale sharks, beluga whales and constantly changing exhibits. While at the aquarium, grab a bite at the Wolfgang Puck Cafe or head to Ted's Montana Grill on Luckie Street for a bison burger.

Historic Virginia Highland

This quaint neighborhood is known for its great restaurants and boutique shopping. Residents young and old can be found walking along the sidewalks and sitting on park benches during the day, while at night Virginia-Highland bars becomes packed with the college crowd and young professionals out for a drink. The 1900s homes and architecture add to the already picturesque surroundings. Spend the afternoon people watching at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Virginia or grab a burger at casual George's Restaurant& Bar. A few block away from the restaurant and shopping center is the Jimmy Carter Center. Situated on 30 acres the presidential library features beautiful gardens and lakes along with more than a million documents, correspondence and photos from the Carter administration. Travel down Ponce de Leon Avenue and arrive at the uniquely-designed Fernbank Museum of Natural History which is located on 65 acres and features an IMAX Theater. planetarium and educational science center. If its a Friday, stick around for the Fernbank's Martinis and IMAX event. Also nearby in the Druid Hills neighborhood is prestigious Emory University.

Stone Mountain

Take a whole day or afternoon to visit Georgia's Stone Mountain State Park, located 16 miles from Atlanta's city center. From the Stone Mountain Family Park Campground to the Stone Mountain Golf Course, there is a ton to do at Stone Mountain, but the main attraction is the 1,685 foot granite boulder containing the world's largest bas-relief sculpture-a depiction of Confederate generals

President Jefferson Davis. The top of the boulder can be accessed via gondola or a steep climb on a rock path on the east side. Acres of greenery, lakes and trails surround the huge boulder as does The Stone Mountain Scenic Railroad, which takes visitors on treks around the base of the mountain throughout the day. Just a short drive away, Stone Mountain Park can also be reached via the MARTA train's East Line. From the Indian Trail station, a bus service transport visitors to the park. Another nearby attraction includes the Stone Mountain Antique Car and Treasure Museum, where highlights are the historic toys and memorabilia.

Historical Tours

Underground Atlanta(+1 404 523 2311/ http://www.underground-atlanta.com/)

Bus& Car Tours

Atlanta Tours(+1 888 811 9237,+1 770 662 3827;http://www.atlantatours.us/? gclid=CMK_g9y0qpYCFQ89awodQGHRzQ/) American Sightseeing Atlanta(+1 404 233 9140;http://www.americansightseeingatl.com/)

Flight Tours

Air Atlanta Helicopters(+1 770 458 7771;http://www.airatlantahelicopters.com/)
North Atlanta Executive Air Service(+1 770 844 8687;http://www.atlantaheli.com/
Services.htm/)

Ballooning Adventures

Magic Carpet Ride(+1 770 436 9960/http://www.magicballooning.com/)
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Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

The Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport(ATL)(+1 404 209 1700/ http://www.atlanta-airport.com) towers as the world's busiest passenger airport. Located 10 miles south of downtown, it is currently in the midst of an ambitious 5.4 billion dollar development program to keep pace with its

world standing. The following major airline companies dock at its terminals:

Aero Mexico(+1 800 237 6639/ http://www.aeromexico.com)

Air Canada(+1 800 776 3000/ http://www.aircanada.ca)

Air France(+1 800 871 1366/ http://www.airfrance.com)

Air Jamaica(+1 800 523 5585/ http://www.airjamaica.com)

American Airline(+1 800 433 7300/ http://www.aa.com)

British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/ http://www.british-airways.com)

Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ http://www.continental.com)

Delta(+1 800 221 1212/ http://www.delta.com)

Frontier(+1 800 432 1359/ http://www.frontierairlines.com)

Jet Blue(+1 800 538 2583/ http://www.jetblue.com)

Korean Air(+1 800 438 5000/ http://www.koreanair.com)

Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/ http://www.lufthansa.com)

Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ http://www.nwa.com)

United(+1 800 241 6522/ http://www.ual.com)

US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ http://www.usairways.com)

Airport Map& Information:http:// www.airguideonline.com/airports/ airport atl.htm

Airport Services:http:// www.airguideonline.com/airports/ airport atl2.htm

Airport Transportation:http:// www.airguideonline.com/airports/ airport atl3.htm

All of Hartsfield's ground transportation services, including buses, rental cars, shuttles, and trains, are conveniently located in the airport's Ground Transportation Center(GTC)(+1 404 530 6674).



MARTA(Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority)(+1 404 848 4711/ http:// www.itsmarta.com) offers rail service in and out of the airport. Trains depart every eight minutes. Rides to downtown last 15 minutes, one of the fastest options into Atlanta. One-way fares cost USD1.75; week-long passes USD13.

Taxis(+1 404 530 6698) are located on GTC's Island A. The cabs charge set fees for Atlanta's central business district with a special per-person rate for two or more passengers. Set fees: USD25 to Downtown, USD28 to Midtown, and USD35 to Buckhead. Rides outside of the central business district operate on a meter basis.

GTC's Island B harbors shuttle van service. The vehicles depart every 15 minutes, operating daily from 7AM-11PM. Depending on location rates generally fall between USD12-USD18. Some of the more prominent companies include:

Airport Metro Shuttle(+1 404 766 6666) Atlanta Corporate Shuttle(+1 770 619 5336) Downtown Shuttle Service(+1 404 766

Interstate Airport Jitney(+1 770 932 6757)

Airport Parking

Park N Fly(+1 800 763 6895/ https:// book.pnfnetwork.com/travel/gateway.rvlx? action_route=0:PARKING:1:PROMO2&tracking_number=0070030) Park N Fly(+1 800 763 6895/ https:// book.pnfnetwork.com/travel/gateway.rvlx?

Rental Car Companies:

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/ http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/ http:// www.budget.com)

Dollar(+1 800 4000/ http://www.dollar.com)

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/ http:// www.hertz.com)

National(+1 800 227 7368/ http:// www.nationalcar.com)

Thrifty(+1 800 367 2277/ http:// www.thrifty.com)

Payless(+1 404 766 5034/ http:// www.paylesscarrental.com)

Another attractive ground transportation option is Flexcar, which operates in certain U.S. cities. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Flexcar(+1 877 353 9227/ http://www.flexcar.com)

To get into downtown hop on either Interstate 85, which runs along the northwest side of the airport and eventually flows into Interstate 75, or pick up Interstate 75 on the west side of the airport for the straight shot into town.

By Car-Share

Flexcar(+1 404 817 3599/ http:// www.flexcar.com/)

By Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/ http:// www.amtrak.com) puffs into Atlanta's historic train station at 1688 Peachtree Road. The Crescent Line services the area daily from New York City with stops in Philadelphia and Washington.

By Bus

By Car

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/ http:// www.greyhound.com) escorts travelers in from every direction. The bus terminal at 232 Forsyth Street adjoins Atlanta's rail system, lending for easy access to other

Atlanta rates as one of the most caraction_route=0:PARKING:1:PROMO2&tracking_cក្រមន្តអាធាតាខាមិក្រក្នុង ប្រាក់ country thanks to a cobweb of major thoroughfares. Interstate 20 bisects downtown Atlanta in an east/ west direction, coming from Alabama in the west and South Carolina in the east. Interstate 75 rummages in from a north/ south direction, and Interstate 85 veers through at a northeast/southwest angle.

Getting Around

Rail service, via MARTA, represents the quickest means of transportation for maneuvering around Atlanta. The orange colored North/South Line services downtown as well as such popular destinations as Buckhead, the High Museum of Art, and the airport. The blue

East/West Line also wanders through downtown and beyond and includes stops at the Martin Luther King historical sites. Trains pass each stop every 15 minutes. One-way fares are USD1.75; weeklong passes USD13. Trains only accept exact change and tokens. Hours of operation: M-F 5a-1a; Sa-Su 5a-12:30a.

Though slow and infrequent, buses, also managed by MARTA, service all of downtown and the surrounding suburbs. Destinations and route numbers are clearly visible on the bus windshields. The USD1.75 fare includes transfers. Hours: M-F 5a-1a: Sa-Su 6a-12:30a

Taxis are relatively easy to hail throughout downtown and can be found loitering at all the major hotels. Some of the more reputable cab companies include:

Atlanta Lenox Taxi(+1 404 872 2600) Checker Cabs(+1 404 351 1111) Yellow Cabs(+1 404 521 0200)

Driving in Atlanta is mind bending. Part of the problem lies in a deficiency of creative street names. There is Peachtree Street. Peachtree Road, Peachtree Avenue, and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. If your destination bears the name Peachtree be sure to consult a map to avoid a vehement bout of pounding the dashboard and cursing Henry Ford for his car invention. One-way downtown streets, sudden street name changes, and roads abruptly cutoff by Interstates contribute to the driving nightmare. Try to avoid morning and afternoon rush hour traffic, especially through the "downtown connector," a stretch of downtown Interstate where I-75 and I-85 merae.

Traffic Information

To find out city traffic information go tohttp:// www.traffic.com

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps:// travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling



technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/

Fun Facts

- 1.Interesting fact: Margaret Mitchell wrote"Gone with the Wind" in Midtown Atlanta in a home that is now a museum. The famous author's final resting place can also be visited at Oakland Cemetery near downtown.
- 2. There are more than 55 streets in Atlanta that contain the word"Peachtree."
- 3. The annual Peachtree Road Race that takes place each Fourth of July is the largest 10K foot race in the world.
- 4. Fun Fact: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest

- passenger airport offering a location that is just a 2-hour flight away from 83 percent of U.S. cities.
- 5. Stone Mountain, located about 16 miles east of downtown Atlanta, boasts the world's largest bas-relief sculpture featuring Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis.
- 6. Weird fact: Local Atlantans use the abbreviations ITP and OTP to distinguish whether they live in the suburbs(Outside the Perimeter) or in the city(Inside the Perimeter. This perimeter is actually the boundary of I-285, which circles the city.
- 7. Atlanta is one of two cities in the world to be home to two Nobel Peace Prize winners —Martin Luther King Jr. and President Jimmy Carter.

- 8. Dr. John S. Pemberton invented Coca-Cola in Atlanta in 1886.
- 9. The Six Flags Over Georgia theme park got its name from the six flags that once flew over Georgia—England, Spain, Liberty, Georgia, Confederate States of America, and the United States.
- 10. The Varsity in Midtown is the world's largest drive-in fast food restaurant.
- 11. Random Fact: Atlanta is the only city in North America that has been destroyed by fire as an act of war.
- 12. Before garnering its current name, Atlanta was called Terminus and then Marthaville.
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